

ty, saying, that since they were at present free, they would never consent to their becoming slaves: on which the ambassadors threatened them with war and departed.

Cræsus, being informed that the *Samians* were inclined to become tributary to him, till *Æsop* by speaking only a few words had diverted them from this resolution, sent to make them a proposal; that if they would send *Æsop* to him, he would for the present put a stop to his arms. This proposal being made to *Æsop*, he replied that he was not against their sending him, provided they would suffer him first to tell them a short story. 'There once happened, said he, a fierce war between the wolves and the sheep; when the sheep by the help of the dogs, had the advantage. Upon this the wolves made a proposal of peace to the sheep, on condition that they might have their dogs for hostages. To this the credulous sheep agreed, but no sooner had they parted with their dogs, than the wolves broke in upon them, and destroyed them at pleasure.' The moral of this fable was immediately understood by the *Samians*, who unanimously cried

cried out, that they would
and with this answer
dismissed.

Æsop now went voluntarily
Ambassador's ship, and
Lydia. On his arrival at
he presented himself before
looking upon him with
nation, 'Was it this
' hindered me from being
Æsop then advancing with
' I am not here, O King
' a man delivered up
' come voluntarily to your
' pulsion has been used
' self at your majesty's
' one request to make
' scend to grant me this
' ear, for a few words
' A boy once hurt
' had the fortune to
' little animal, finding
' her, thus pleaded for
' she, I never did any
' never had either
' to do it. All my